

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A plant package comprising a potted plant and a plant cover disposed thereabout, the plant package produced by the method, comprising:
 - providing a potted plant comprising a floral grouping disposed in a pot, the pot having a lower end, an upper rim and an outer peripheral surface;
 - providing a plant cover comprising a lower portion having a lower end, an upper end, an inner peripheral surface and an outer peripheral surface, and wherein the inner peripheral surface of the lower portion defines and encompasses an inner retaining space, the lower portion sized to contain the pot, and the plant cover further comprising an upper portion which is detachable from the lower portion via a detaching element in the plant cover, and further comprising a bonding material constructed of a heat shrinkable material;
 - disposing the potted plant into the inner retaining space of the lower portion of the plant cover wherein the pot is covered by the lower portion; and
 - securing the plant cover about the pot by heating the bonding material constructed of a heat shrinkable material thereby forming the plant package.

2. (Withdrawn) The plant package of claim 1 wherein in the step of providing a plant cover, the plant cover is further defined as constructed from materials selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymer film, non-polymer film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

3. (Withdrawn) The plant package of claim 1 wherein in the step of providing the plant cover, the lower portion of the plant cover further comprises a base portion and a skirt portion.

4. (Withdrawn) The plant package of claim 1 wherein in the step of disposing the potted plant, the upper portion is sized to surround the floral grouping in the pot.

5. (Withdrawn) The plant package of claim 1 wherein in the step of providing a plant cover, the lower end of the lower portion has a closed lower end.

6. (Withdrawn) The plant package of claim 1 wherein in the step of providing a plant cover, the lower end of the lower portion has a gusset.

7. (Withdrawn) A plant package comprising a potted plant and a plant cover disposed thereabout, the plant package produced by the method, comprising:

- providing a potted plant comprising a floral grouping disposed in a pot, the pot having a lower end, and upper rim and an outer peripheral surface;
- providing a plant cover comprising a base portion and a skirt portion, the base portion having an inner retaining space and sized to contain the pot of the potted plant, and the plant cover comprising a bonding material constructed of a heat shrinkable material;
- disposing the potted plant into the inner retaining space of the base portion wherein the pot is covered by the base portion; and
- securing the plant cover about the pot by heating the bonding material constructed of a heat shrinkable material thereby forming the plant package.

8. (Withdrawn) The plant package of claim 7 wherein in the step of providing a plant cover, the plant cover is further defined as constructed from materials selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymer film, non-polymer film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

9. (Withdrawn) The plant package of claim 7 wherein the base portion has a closed lower end.
10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the closed lower end of the base portion has a drainage hole.
11. (Withdrawn) A plant package comprising a potted plant and a plant cover disposed thereabout, the plant package produced by the method, comprising:
- providing a potted plant comprising a floral grouping disposed in a pot, the pot having a lower end, and upper rim and an outer peripheral surface;
 - providing a plant cover having an inner retaining space and sized to contain the pot of the potted plant, and the plant cover comprising a bonding material constructed of a heat shrinkable material;
 - disposing the potted plant into the inner retaining space of the plant cover; and
 - securing the plant cover about the pot by heating the bonding material constructed of a heat shrinkable material thereby forming the plant package.

12. (Withdrawn) The plant package of claim 11 wherein in the step of providing a plant cover, the plant cover is further defined as constructed from materials selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymer film, non-polymer film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

13. (Withdrawn) The plant package of claim 11 wherein the plant cover has a closed lower end.

14. (Withdrawn) The plant package of claim 13 wherein the closed lower end of the plant cover has a drainage hole.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of containing a floral grouping, comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, and a flattened condition and openable to expose an inner retaining space, at least a portion of the sleeve being tapered, the sleeve having a first panel, a second panel, a first side edge and a second side edge wherein the first and second panels are connected along at least a portion of the first side edge and along at least a portion of the second side edge, at least a portion of at least one of the first and

second panels comprising at least two layers of material wherein
the at least two layers of material are substantially unconnected;
and
disposing at least a portion of the floral grouping into at least a portion
of the inner retaining space of the sleeve.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the at least two layers of material that form at least a portion of at least one of the first and second panels are laminated.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the lower end of the sleeve is open.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the lower end of the sleeve is closed.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the sleeve has at least one drainage hole formed therein.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the sleeve has at least one ventilation hole formed therein.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve, the sleeve further comprises an upper portion which is detachable from the sleeve.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the at least two layers of material that form at least a portion of at least one of the first and second panels are constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, non-polymeric film, woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, synthetic fabric, natural fabric, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, laminations thereof and combinations thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve has a bonding material disposed on at least a portion thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the connection between the first and second panels along at least a portion of the first and second side edges is a fold.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the connection between the first and second panels along at least a portion of the first and second side edges is a seal.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the upper end of the sleeve is provided with a non-linear upper edge.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with at least one of a decorative pattern, decorative finish, decorative design, decorative color and combinations thereof disposed thereon.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with a coloring on at least a portion thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with a coating on at least a portion thereof.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with printing on at least a portion thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with embossing on at least a portion thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with flocking on at least a portion thereof.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with a metallic finish on at least a portion thereof.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein, in the step of providing the sleeve, the sleeve is provided with etching on at least a portion thereof.

35. (Previously Presented) A floral sleeve for containing a floral grouping, comprising:

a sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, and a flattened condition and openable to expose an inner retaining space, at least a portion of the sleeve being tapered, the sleeve having a first panel, a second panel, a first side edge and a second side edge wherein the first and second panels are connected along at least a portion of the first side edge and along at least a portion of the second side edge, at least a portion of at least one of the first and second panels comprising at least two layers of material wherein the at least two layers of material are substantially unconnected.

36. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the at least two layers of material that form at least a portion of at least one of the first and second panels are laminated.

37. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the lower end of the sleeve is open.

38. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the lower end of the sleeve is closed.

39. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve has at least one drainage hole formed therein.

40. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve has at least one ventilation hole formed therein.

41. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve further comprises an upper portion which is detachable from the sleeve.

42. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the at least two layers of material that form at least a portion of at least one of the first and second panels are constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, non-polymeric film, woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, synthetic fabric, natural fabric, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, laminations thereof and combinations thereof.

43. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve has a bonding material disposed on at least a portion thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the connection between the first and second panels along at least a portion of the first and second side edges is a fold.

45. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the connection between the first and second panels along at least a portion of the first and second side edges is a seal.

46. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the upper end of the sleeve is provided with a non-linear upper edge.

47. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve is provided with at least one of a decorative pattern, decorative finish, decorative design, decorative color and combinations thereof disposed thereon.

48. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve is provided with a coloring on at least a portion thereof.

49. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve is provided with a coating on at least a portion thereof.

50. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve is provided with printing on at least a portion thereof.

51. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve is provided with embossing on at least a portion thereof.

52. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve is provided with flocking on at least a portion thereof.

53. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve is provided with a metallic finish on at least a portion thereof.

54. (Previously Presented) The floral sleeve of claim 35 wherein the sleeve is provided with etching on at least a portion thereof.

REMARKS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

In Examiner's Office Action dated May 25, 2005, the Examiner maintains his previous rejections to the claims as in the Office Action mailed February 9, 2005. In the Office Action dated May 25, 2005 "Applicant's arguments filed May 12, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive." Examiner further submits that the independent claims 15 and 35 as amended cite, "**at least a portion** of at least one of the first and second panels **comprising at least two layers** of material wherein at least two layers of material are **connected** (previously 'substantially unconnected')."

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has erroneously reviewed the claims which do cite "substantially unconnected." As such, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider his previous response.

The claims as amended in the response filed May 12, 2005, in response to Examiner's Office Action mailed February 9, 2005 are as follows:

Listing of Claims:

15. (Currently Amended) A method of containing a floral grouping, comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, and a flattened

condition and openable to expose an inner retaining space, at least a portion of the sleeve being tapered, the sleeve having a first panel, a second panel, a first side edge and a second side edge wherein the first and second panels are connected along at least a portion of the first side edge and along at least a portion of the second side edge, at least a portion of at least one of the first and second panels comprising at least two layers of material wherein ~~at least a portion of the~~ at least two layers of material are substantially unconnected; and

disposing at least a portion of the floral grouping into at least a portion of the inner retaining space of the sleeve.

35. (Currently Amended) A floral sleeve for containing a floral grouping, comprising:

a sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, and a flattened condition and openable to expose an inner retaining space, at least a portion of the sleeve being tapered, the sleeve having a first panel, a second panel, a first side edge and a second side edge wherein the first and second panels are connected along at least a portion of the first side edge and along at least a portion of the second side edge, at least a portion of at least one of the first and second panels

comprising at least two layers of material wherein ~~at least a portion~~
of the at least two layers of material are substantially unconnected.

As shown above in claims 15 and 35, Applicant's intention was to add limitation "substantially unconnected" to the claims thereby overcoming the Examiner's rejection of the claims over Landau. This limitation was discussed with the Examiner during the March 3, 2005 personal interview.

As such, Applicant traverses Examiner's rejections to the claims and reasserts the following arguments.